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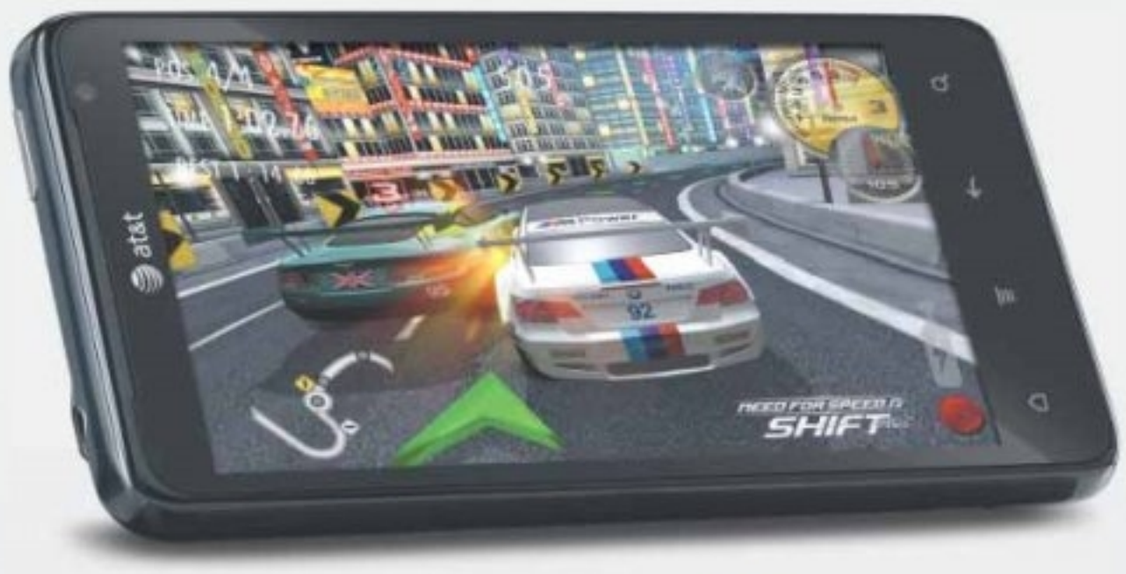

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Who's been naughty and who's been nice?

Dashing through this year's holiday music offerings is not an easy task

We've made a list and checked it twice, and we're a little surprised by how much we actually like the Michael Buble 'Christmas' album

{page 11}

WAR IS OVER: FLAG OF US FORCES LOWERED IN IRAQ

NEWS {page 10}

BRING THAT BEAT BACK: 'URBAN NUTCRACKER' RULES!

ARTS {page 20}

PATTON OSWALT MATURES AS AN ACTOR IN 'YOUNG ADULT'

FILMS {page 15}

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TA pleads not guilty to school tech theft

A Boston Public Schools paraprofessional pleaded not guilty Thursday to stealing computers from the school, the day before he is set to face a judge for allegedly having inappropriate contact with a student.

LaShawn Hill, 33, of Dorchester, was ordered held on $3,500 bail for the larceny charge.

Authorities discovered that after he was accused of inappropriate contact with a 14-year-old autistic student, about five school computers were missing.

Hill will face a judge Friday for the alleged contact. Authorities said he is suspected of having inappropriate contact with another student last year.

A spokesman for BPS said there was nothing in Hill's background check that would have prevented his hiring.

CHITOSE SUZUKI

▶ Hill

All employees are subject to a background check and concerns on each candidate's record are handled separately.

Hill has worked for BPS as a paraprofessional at four different schools since 2004. MICHAEL NAUGHTON

Patriot's assault charges dropped

- District attorney's office says not enough evidence for conviction
- Woman accused Edelman of groping
- Edelman 'humbled' by support

Citing an inability to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt, prosecutors dropped indecent assault charges against Patriots player Julian Edelman.

Edelman, 25, was charged in October with groping a woman inside the Storyville nightclub during a Halloween party.

Prosecutors from Suffolk District Attorney Daniel Conley's office on Thursday filed documents to withdraw prosecution.

"Specifically, a review of both witness statements and video surveillance has revealed that the commonwealth would be unable to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant intentionally engaged in a harmful or offensive touching of the complainant that would be regarded by society as immodest, immoral and improper," prosecutors wrote in the document.

Prosecutors examined video surveillance from the incident, reviewed emergency calls that brought police to the club that night and examined witness interviews, according to Conley's office.

Edelman pleaded not guilty during his arraignment in October on a charge of indecent assault and battery. Prosecutors did not seek to hold Edelman on bail and he was released on his own recognizance.

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The woman told police that he "reached under her costume and grabbed her vagina," according to a police report.

As part of Conley's announcement that the charges were dropped, his office released a redacted police report as well as a video clip from inside the club.

The report shows that the woman was adamant that charges be filed despite police warning her of "a huge media storm."

"The sergeant then asked her 'Do you know who that is?' and the alleged victim responded 'no.' The sergeant responded that's Julian Edelman, he plays for the New England Patriots," according to the report. "The victims reply was, "Okay that doesn't make a difference to me."

The video clip shows Edelman, dressed as a "Reno 911" police officer, come into contact with the victim. His right arm reaches out toward her, but the view is partially blocked by a person.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

COURTESY OF SUFFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

▶ This surveillance footage capture the alleged incident.

"I am very appreciative of the hard work of the county's public officials and of my attorney Amy McNamee. I am humbled by the support of my teammates and the Patriots organization. I'm just looking forward to focusing on football."
EDELMAN STATEMENT

ARAM BOGHOSIAN/THE BOSTON GLOBE/POOL PHOTO

▶ Edelman pleaded not guilty to the charges in October.

In the news

$14M

Amount in state funds to reimburse cities and towns for emergency response costs and road repairs incurred during the June 1 tornadoes in central and western Massachusetts. This funding comes from the supplemental budget signed by Gov. Deval Patrick and MassDOT. METRO

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▶ Service will restart.

Red Line to reopen during holidays

BOSTON. The MBTA announced that regularly scheduled Red Line service between Harvard Square and Alewife will resume on the weekends of Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31 to Jan. 1.

Shuttles have been running as crews conduct maintenance as part of massive underground project. METRO

Passenger charged with flight disruption

BOSTON. A Watertown man who allegedly disrupted a flight from Boston to Amsterdam was charged this week.

According to reports, Kurt Haberstroh, 20, was charged with interfering with the performance of duties of a flight crew member or flight attendant in a federal complaint. METRO

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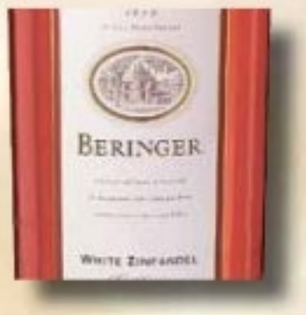

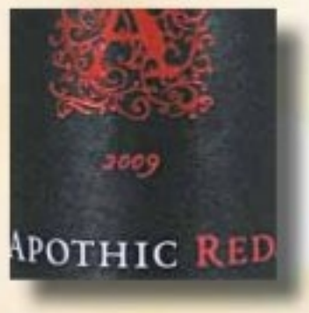

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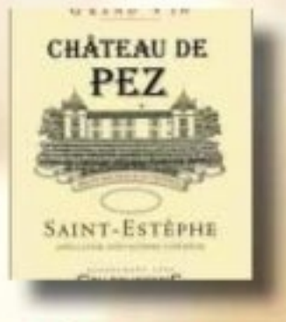

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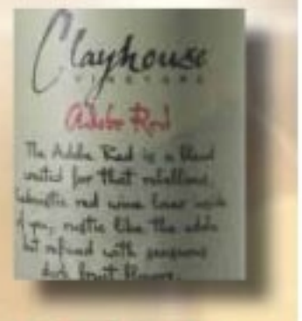

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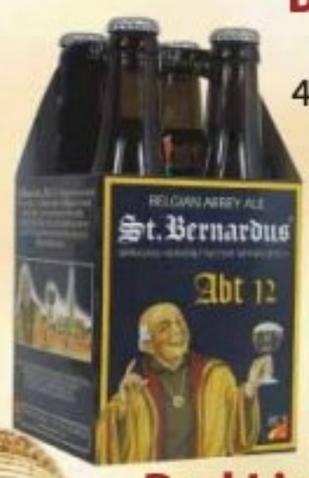

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International graffiti artist tagged by T cops

- Wanted for tagging property all over the world
- Accused of causing extensive damage to Red Line

▶ Bezat

$3K Estimated cost for damage done to Red Line trains by "Rask" in Boston.

An internationally infamous graffiti artist accused of tagging multiple Red Line trains in September was taken into custody by Transit Police this week and arraigned in a Cambridge court.

According to MBTA police, Maxime Bezat, 25, of Paris, France, is being held on $10,000 cash bail for allegedly causing "extensive graffiti vandalism" to Red Line subway trains at Alewife Station in Cambridge.

Bezat is thought to be responsible for tagging trains and subway stations in Boston, Paris and New York City, using the name "RASK."

▶ Tags on the Red Line

The website Graffiti.org features photographs of artwork done by "RASK" covering walls in both Belfast and Cork, Ireland.

"Anytime graffiti defaces public or private property it is not art. It is vandalism," said MBTA Deputy Chief of Police Lewis Best.

According to Best, Bezat was arrested on Dec. 3 in New Jersey as he was boarding a plane for Paris.

MBTA Transit Police went to the Essex County Correctional Facility in Newark on Wednesday and took custody of Bezat on a warrant issued out of Cambridge District Court for vandalizing property on the T, a three-year felony.

According to T police, Bezat waived extradition and was brought back and booked in Boston at Transit Police Headquarters.

The alleged vandal was captured with the help of the T police's Graffiti Unit.

"This is our message: If you engage in this type of activity, we are going to identify you and you will be prosecuted," said Best.

STEVE ANNEAR
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Thirsty, voters? This party just getting started

With Occupy Wall Street getting media attention lately, some may have forgotten the Obama-era's first popular revolt But they remember

Tea Party supporters now hold fewer sign-waving rallies, a hallmark of their early opposition to bank bailouts and President Obama's health care reform in 2009. But the movement isn't losing steam.

Interviews with activists across 20 U.S. states indicate that Tea Party groups, far from fading, have evolved into an increasingly sophisticated network working to unseat establishment Republicans who they believe have betrayed the principles of lower taxes and limited government.

"Those who think the Tea Party is on the wane are in for a gigantic surprise in 2012," says Debbie Dooley, co-organizer of the Atlanta Tea Party. "We have built a grassroots army and we will be a fine-tuned machine next year."

The goal of these loosely affiliated but fiercely independent groups nationwide is to build a "farm team" of public officials who can ascend through the ranks of government. It's a long-term strategy that looks past the 2012 election to a takeover of the Republican Party and the U.S. Congress.

Instead of organizing demonstrations, an unpaid army of managers, small business owners and stay-at-home moms is learning how to get out the vote, raise money and set up political action committees. They are working to overcome the territorial rivalries that dogged the Tea Party in 2010, when groups backed multiple primary challengers and often allowed the establishment candidate to win.

One thing the activists have learned is that they must unify behind one candidate rather than let a number of conservative contenders split the vote. A Tea Party coalition has already done this in Indiana, where they hope to unseat a six-term incumbent. REUTERS

43%

According to a Reuters/Ipsos poll this week, 43 percent of Republicans either identify (23 percent) or identify strongly (20 percent) with the Tea Party.

23%

Among all Americans, those figures show 13 percent identify, 10 percent do strongly.

MELANIE STETSON FREEMAN/THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR VIA GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Naples, Fla., Tea Party gathered in a local park this past Thanksgiving. Rallies of this sort — with members dressed mainly in red, white and blue, and many carrying U.S. flags — helped propel the political movement into the national spotlight. But supporters have taken a step back from high-profile gatherings and have begun focusing on electoral priorities — like unity.

new balance

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WINES & SPIRITS

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Our Best Gifts to Celebrate the Season

Highly Rated Wines

Rated 90+ Points (WA – Wine Advocate, WE – Wine Enthusiast, WS – Wine Spectator)

Sebastiani Chardonnay 2009 91WE	$8.97
Pine Ridge Chenin Viognier 2010 90WA	$9.97
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Cambria Chardonnay 2008 91WS	$15.97
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Pierre Usseglio Ch du Pape 2007 93WA	$47.97
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Wines for Entertaining

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Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc 750ml	$11.97
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Yellow Tail All Types 1.5L	$9.97

LIQUORS

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Grey Goose Vodka 80pr 750ml	$26.97	**Cruzan** Gold & Silver 1.75L	$19.97	**Makers Mark** 750ml	$23.97
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Hendricks Gin 750ml	$26.97	**Glenlivet** 12yr Scotch 750ml	$32.97	**Baileys Irish Cream** 750ml	$21.97
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BEERS

Bud & Bud Lt. 16oz. btl 15pk alum. cs	$15.97 +Dep	**Miller High Life** 12oz. btl 18pk	$10.97 +Dep	**Dos Equis** Amber & Lager 12oz. btl 12pk	$11.97 +Dep
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Miller Lite 16oz. btl alum. 9pk	$10.47 +Dep	**Smutty Nose** (All Types) 12oz. btl 12pk	$12.97 +Dep	**Shipyard** (All Types) 12oz. btl 12pk	$13.97 +Dep
Stella Artois 12oz. btl loose cs	$23.97 +Dep	**Pabst Blue Ribbon** 12oz. can suitcase	$13.97 +Dep	**Ipswich** (All Types) 12oz. btl 12pk	$11.97 +Dep
Corona & Corona Lt. 12oz. btl 18pk	$18.97 +Dep	**Bass Ale** 12oz. btl 12pk	$11.97 +Dep	**Woodchuck Cider** (All Types) 12oz. btl 6pk	$7.97

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ATM

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15 McGrath Highway
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4-7 pm
Cabin Fever Maple Spirit and Baker's Dozen Wines

Saturday, December 10
3-6pm
Greek Retsina and Petirrojo Wines

2153 Mystic Valley Parkway
Friday, December 16
4-7pm
Wines from Commonwealth Wine and Spirits

Saturday, December 10
3-6pm
Wines from Commonwealth Wine and Spirits

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THE END OF NEARLY NINE YEARS IN IRAQ

- Flag lowered, signifying end of US occupation
- 4,500 Americans, tens of thousands of Iraqis killed

MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ The United States Forces-Iraq flag is displayed before being retired during a casing ceremony signifying the departure of United States troops from Iraq.

U.S. forces formally ended almost nine years of war in Iraq on Thursday with a modest flag-lowering ceremony in Baghdad, while to the north flickering violence highlighted ethnic and sectarian strains threatening the country in years ahead.

"After a lot of blood spilled by Iraqis and Americans, the mission of an Iraq that could govern and secure itself has become real," Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said at the ceremony at Baghdad's still heavily-fortified airport.

Almost 4,500 U.S. soldiers and tens of thousands of Iraqis lost their lives in the war that began with a "Shock and Awe" campaign of missiles pounding Baghdad and descended into sectarian strife and a surge in U.S. troop numbers.

U.S. soldiers lowered the flag of American forces in Iraq and slipped it into a camouflage-colored sleeve in a brief outdoor ceremony, symbolically ending the most unpopular U.S. military venture since the Vietnam War of the 1960s and '70s.

The remaining 4,000 American troops will leave by the end of the year.

Toppled Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein is dead, executed in 2006, and the worst sectarian violence has, at least for now, passed. REUTERS

Timeline

- **March 20, 2003:** U.S.-led forces invade Iraq from Kuwait to oust Saddam Hussein.
- **April 9:** U.S. troops take Baghdad; Saddam goes into hiding.
- **May 1:** President George W. Bush declares hostilities over.
- **Dec. 13:** U.S. troops capture Saddam near Tikrit.
- **June 15:** U.S. military completes its troop build-up, or "surge," to around 170,000 soldiers.

- **July 22, 2008:** The U.S. military says the last of five extra combat brigades sent to Iraq in 2007 have withdrawn, leaving just under 147,000 U.S. troops in Iraq.
- **June 30, 2009:** All U.S. combat units withdraw from Iraq's urban centers and redeploy to bases outside.
- **Aug. 31:** Troop levels in Iraq are reduced to 49,700 after a major drawdown is completed.
- **April 26, 2011:** U.S. Congressional Budget Office says the cost of Iraq operations totals around $752 billion since 2003.

REUTERS

WEEKEND

2

Do you hear what we hear?

This year's holiday releases are a mixed bag Michael Buble flirts with Santa, My Morning Jacket chilllls and the Biebs is all over the place Metro helps you sort the naughty from the nice

Michael Buble "Christmas"

Naughty: The biggest problem with this album is that once you hear it, you'll have to admit that you like Michael Buble. But if the people you're telling have heard "Christmas," then they'll go easy on you.

Nice: Buble is silly, classy and so right on-key. Plus, he re-imagines almost every song on this album. Sure, it's a little weird to hear "Santa Baby" as a vaguely homoerotic May/December come-on, but his torch song treatment of Mariah Carey's "All I Want For Christmas Is You" unearths a real longing that's missing in Mimi's version.

She & Him "A Very She & Him Christmas"

Naughty: M. Ward's guitar playing is as beautiful as ever and Zooey Deschanel's voice is like the moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow, but it would be nice if there was at least one original track to spice up this 12-song collection. If you're not listening closely to them playing these standards, you might think you're listening to one really long song.

Nice: She & Him switch the she and him roles on "Baby It's Cold Outside," so Zooey Deschanel is the one persuading M. Ward to stay just a little bit longer. This long overdue update makes the 1936 song about 50 percent less date-rapey.

Justin Bieber "Under the Mistletoe"

Naughty: This is one uneven collection, mostly because the songs span a period of the Biebs' career where he's outgrowing his cute Christmas elf phase. It's all over the place, sometimes within a single song! A smooth R&B duet with Boyz II Men on "The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)" includes a searing guitar solo; he does a Jackson 5 take on "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" that is super-autotuned; and Busta Rhymes comes from nowhere to rap in "Drummer Boy." Sample lyric: "Gatha round the mistletoe real quick, as a matta of fact, gatha 'round the fireplace, it's about to get hot in here."

Nice: The title track could be a new classic, with its easy Jason Mraz groove and Bieber's pouty loverman delivery.

Lady Gaga "A Very Gaga Holiday"

Naughty: This four-song EP, culled from her "A Very Gaga Thanksgiving" TV special, is only 25 percent seasonal.

Nice: Only Mother Monster would have the audacity to add another verse to "White Christmas." It's a stupid verse about her "dreaming of a white snowman," but it's kind of funny and her voice is right on.

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

The more the merrier

My Morning Jacket 'iTunes Session'

Naughty: Yeah, we know that My Morning Jacket recorded this seven-song collection as part of an "iTunes Session," but couldn't they have given it a cooler title?

Nice: The band's classic reverb approach suits the snowy majestic ideal of Christmas perfectly. This collection seems like it was recorded specifically for just sitting in front of the Christmas tree and marvelling. The band bring new life to The Band's "Christmas Must Be Tonight."

Don't forget:

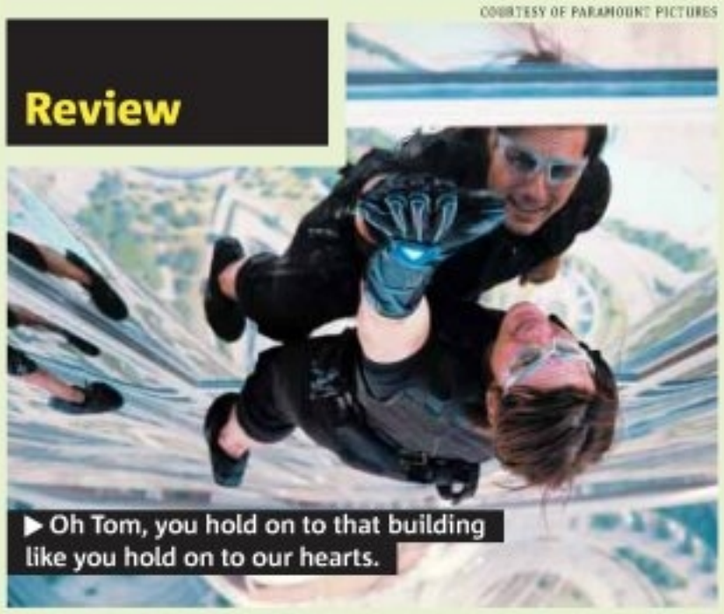
Eldridge Rodriguez 'Christmas on the Allston-Brighton Line'

Naughty: The major downfall of this three-song EP is that it's only a three-song EP.

Nice: The way that E.R. integrates pre-existing holiday lines into his originals is effortless. "I've got my records on, but all I play is 'Silent Night,'" he sings on "Baby I'm Alone Tonight (Christmas Time)." And though his narrator is certainly having a blue Christmas, there's a playfulness to the presentation, evident from the title of the song "Christmas Eve (At Old Country Buffet)."

COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Review



▶ Oh Tom, you hold on to that building like you hold on to our hearts.

Entertaining? Very possible

'Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol'
Director: Brad Bird
Cast: Tom Cruise, Paula Patton, Simon Pegg
Rating: PG-13
Grade: ❶❷❸❹

In the fourth "Mission: Impossible" thriller, Tom Cruise and his team of spies must clear their name after it's framed for a terrorist plot against the Kremlin. It's a simple plot, but an impressive vehicle for huge action sequences that include Cruise hanging off the Burj Khalifa in Dubai — even more stunning in IMAX. While the villain is bland and the supporting characters a bit thin, "Ghost Protocol"'s intensity returns Cruise to form as one of cinema's more thrilling spies. SG

Diablo Cody grows up

'Young Adult' maintains her signature snarky style but dark themes of lost love and self-delusion make this one of her most well-rounded projects

Some of us peaked in high school. And some of us, despite several years distance from that period in our lives, have remained in a state of arrested development ever since. But there's never been someone quite as stuck in the past as Mavis Gary (Theron), a 37-year-old ghostwriter for a young adult series. In between whiskey-induced blackouts and Kardashian family reruns, Mavis obsesses over her high school boyfriend Buddy (Wilson), who has just become a father. Determined to win him back, she travels to her hometown — but seducing Buddy away from his happy family life isn't the slam dunk she thought it would be.

One of the hallmarks of a film script by Diablo Cody is its embrace of teen-speak — Juno could very well end up in Mavis' shoes if things went south with the Michael Cera character. But as much as Mavis' eye-rolling and sarcastic comebacks are similar to those Cody has written into other scripts, the screenwriter has achieved something heartbreakingly accurate in attaching that language to a deluded, alcoholic woman facing a nervous breakdown amid so many personal failures. That language is more of a sign of her stagnation and immaturity than a cheap entertainment trick.

While engaging and at times hilarious, "Young Adult" is unafraid to go to that dark, scary place that makes the film incredibly unique, uncompromising and rewarding.

HEIDI PATALANO
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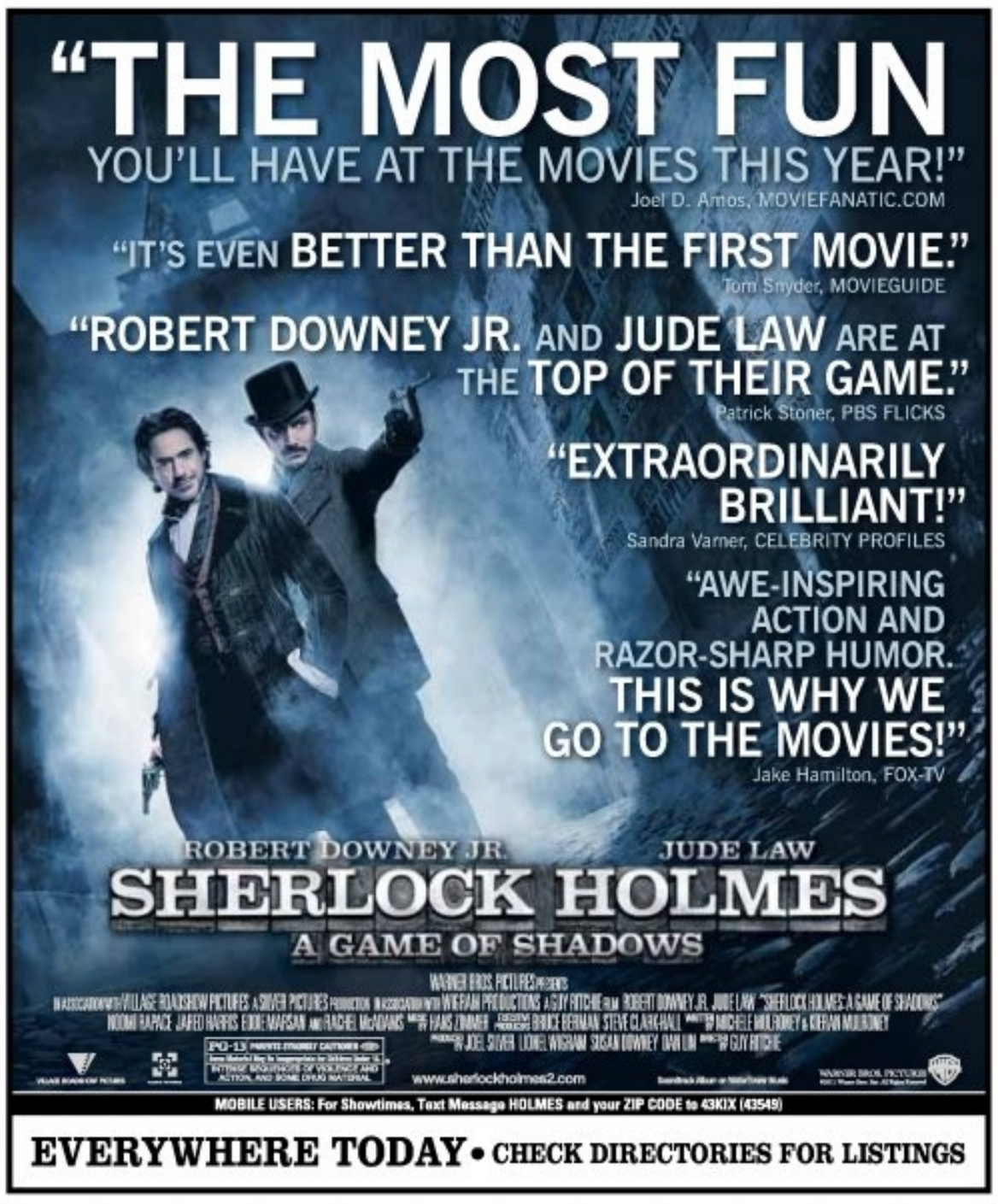
If you go

'Young Adult'
Director: Jason Reitman
Cast: Charlize Theron, Patrick Wilson, Patton Oswalt
Rating: R **Grade:** ❶❷❸❹

▶ Obviously, Mavis' (Theron) plan to get Buddy (Wilson) back is not working out quite like she expected.

COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES



AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Loews Boston Common 19
617-423-5801
At the corner of Tremont & Avery St.
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) Fri 10:10, 11:15, 12:30, 1:30, 2:45, 3:45, 5:00, 6:00, 7:15, 8:15, 9:30, 10:30, 11:45. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:10-12:30-1:30-2:45-3:45-5:00-6:00-7:15-8:15-9:30-10:30-11:45. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:10-11:15-12:30-1:30-2:45-3:45-5:00-6:00-7:15-8:15-9:30-10:30. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 10:30, 12:55, 3:15, 8:30. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 4:25. RealD 3D
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 11:30, 2:10, 5:15, 8:05, 11:00.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
HUGO (PG) 5:40. Digital Presentation
HUGO 3D (PG) 10:35, 1:25, 7:00, 9:55. RealD 3D
IMMORTALS 3D (R) Fri and Sat 4:10, 6:55, 9:30, 12:05. RealD 3D; Sun 4:10-6:55-9:30. RealD 3D
J. EDGAR (R) 6:05. Digital Presentation
JACK AND JILL (PG) 10:50. Digital Presentation
LIKE CRAZY (PG-13) 9:10.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) Fri 11:00, 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:30. IMAX; Sat 11:00-1:45-4:35-7:35-10:30. IMAX; Sun 11:00-2:00-5:00-8:00-11:00. IMAX
THE MUPPETS (PG) 10:55, 1:35, 4:15, 7:05, 9:40. Digital Presentation
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) 10:05, 12:35, 3:05, 5:30, 8:20, 10:50.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:15, 11:05, 1:05, 2:05, 4:05, 4:50, 6:50, 7:35, 9:45, 10:20, 12:25. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:15-11:05-1:05-2:05-4:05-4:50-6:50-7:35-9:45-10:20. Digital Presentation
SHAME (NC-17) Fri and Sat 10:00, 12:45, 3:35, 6:30, 9:05, 11:30.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-12:45-3:35-6:30-9:05.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri 10:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 4:55, 5:55, 6:55, 7:45, 8:50, 9:50, 10:45, 11:45. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:00-11:00-12:00-1:00-2:00-3:00-4:00-4:55-5:55-6:55-7:45-8:50-9:50-10:45-11:45. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-11:00-12:00-1:00-2:00-3:00-4:00-4:55-5:55-6:55-7:45-8:50-9:50-10:45. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) Fri and Sat 11:10, 12:05, 1:15, 2:40, 3:30, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10, 12:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:10-12:05-1:15-2:40-3:30-5:50-8:00-10:10. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 11:20, 2:15, 5:05, 7:50, 10:35. Digital Presentation
YOUNG ADULT (R) Fri and Sat 10:20, 12:40, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10, 12:30. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:20-12:40-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10. Digital Presentation

REGAL CINEMAS

Fenway 13 & RPX
617-424-6266
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ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 11:30, 12:20, 2:00, 3:50, 4:30, 6:40, 7:20, 9:50
HUGO 3D (PG) 12:15, 3:45, 7:15, 10:35. RealD 3D
IMMORTALS 3D (R) Fri and Sat 9:45, 12:30. RealD 3D; Sun 9:45. RealD 3D
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:20. RPX
THE MUPPETS (PG) 11:25, 2:05, 4:45, 7:35, 10:25
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) Fri 12:05, 6:55. OC-Open Caption; Fri 3:35-4:05-9:55-10:45-12:35.; Sat 3:35-9:55. OC-Open Caption; Sat 12:05-4:05-6:55-10:45-12:35.; Sun 3:35-4:05-6:55-10:45.; Sun 12:05-9:55. OC-Open Caption
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:50, 12:10, 12:30, 12:50, 3:20, 3:40, 4:00, 6:50, 7:10, 7:30, 7:50, 10:10, 10:30, 10:50, 12:30; Sun 11:50-12:10-12:30-12:50-3:20-3:40-4:00-6:50-7:10-7:30-7:50-10:10-10:30-10:50.
THE SITTER (R) Fri and Sat 11:35, 1:50, 4:35, 7:05, 9:40, 12:05; Sun 11:35-1:50-4:35-7:05-9:40.
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) Fri and Sat 12:25, 3:55, 6:45, 10:00, 12:35; Sun 12:25-3:55-6:45-10:00.
YOUNG ADULT (R) 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40

the COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Coolidge Corner Theatre
617-734-2500
290 Harvard St., Brookline
ALASTAIR MOOK & HIS ROWDY ROOTS BAND Sat 10:30
BOLSHOI BALLET: SWAN LAKE (NR) Sat and Sun 11:00
THE DESCENDANTS (R) Fri 11:45, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00; Sat and Sun 2:10-4:40-7:20-10:00.
THE FLY (R) Fri and Sat 12:00
MELANCHOLIA (R) Fri and Sat 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50; Sun 11:10-4:30-7:15-9:55
THE SKIN I LIVE IN (LA PIEL QUE HABITO) (R) 11:40, 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 10:00
TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Braintree 10
888-AMC-4FUN
Route 93 off of Exit 6
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) Fri and Sat 10:00, 11:00, 12:30, 1:45, 3:00, 5:30, 6:45, 8:00, 9:30, 10:20. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-11:00-12:30-1:45-3:00-5:30-6:45-8:00-9:30. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) Fri and Sat 10:05, 12:35, 3:05, 8:25, 10:50. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:05-12:35-3:05-8:25. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 4:30. RealD 3D
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) 10:20, 1:05, 3:45. Digital Presentation
HUGO (PG) 5:35. Digital Presentation
HUGO 3D (PG) 10:30, 1:25, 7:00, 9:50. RealD 3D
JACK AND JILL (PG) 4:15. Digital Presentation
THE MUPPETS (PG) Fri and Sat 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:15-2:00-4:45-7:25-10:00. Digital Presentation
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:00, 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:35. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:00-1:55-4:40-7:20-10:00. Digital Presentation
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:00, 1:10, 4:25, 6:30, 7:40, 9:45, 10:50. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-1:10-4:25-6:30-7:40-9:45. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) Fri and Sat 10:25, 12:50, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:25-12:50-3:15-5:35-7:45-9:55. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 10:15, 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:00. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation: 10:15-1:00-4:00-7:10-10:00. Digital Presentation

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Burlington Cinema 10
888-AMC-4FUN
Across from Burlington Mall
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) Fri and Sat 9:45, 12:00, 2:30, 3:40, 5:00, 6:10, 7:30, 9:50. Digital Presentation; Sun 9:45-12:00-2:30-3:40-5:00-6:10-7:30. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) Fri and Sat 11:20, 1:50, 7:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digita; Sun 11:20-1:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digita
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 4:00. RealD 3D
THE DESCENDANTS (R) Fri and Sat 10:50, 2:00, 5:10, 8:00, 10:45.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:50-2:00-5:10-8:00.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) 10:10, 12:50. Digital Presentation
HUGO (PG) 4:30. Digital Presentation
HUGO 3D (PG) Fri and Sat 9:50, 1:00, 6:40, 9:30. RealD 3D; Sun 9:50-1:00-6:40. RealD 3D
JACK AND JILL (PG) Fri and Sat 10:10. Digital Presentation; Sun 7:20. Digital Presentation
THE MUPPETS (PG) Fri and Sat 10:30, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:30-1:30-4:15-7:00. Digital Presentation
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:10, 2:10, 5:30, 8:20, 11:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:10-2:10-5:30-8:20. Digital Presentation
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri 10:20, 1:20, 4:30, 7:50, 8:50, 10:50. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:20-1:20-4:40-7:50-8:50-10:50. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:20-1:20-4:40-7:50-8:30. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) Fri and Sat 11:00, 1:15, 3:50, 6:00, 8:30, 10:55. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:00-1:15-3:50-6:00-8:30. Digital Presentation
YOUNG ADULT (R) Fri and Sat 10:00, 12:30, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:40. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-12:30-3:10-5:40-8:10. Digital Presentation

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Lowes Harvard Square 5
888-AMC-4FUN
10 Church St., Cambridge
HUGO 3D (PG) Fri 1:40, 4:25, 7:15, 9:55. RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 11:00-1:40-4:25-7:15-9:55. RealD 3D
J. EDGAR (R) Fri 5:20. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 11:45-5:20. Digital Presentation
THE MUPPETS (PG) Fri 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30. Digital Presentation; Sat 11:10-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30-12:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:10-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30. Digital Presentation
THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (R) Sat 12:30. Digital Presentation
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri 1:30, 2:40, 4:20, 7:10, 8:15, 10:00. Digital Presentation; Sat 11:20-1:30-2:40-4:20-7:10-8:15-10:00-11:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:20-1:30-2:40-4:20-7:10-8:15-10:00. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) Fri 1:35, 3:35, 5:35, 7:35, 9:35. Digital Presentation; Sat 11:30-1:35-3:35-5:35-7:35-9:35-11:40. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:30-1:35-3:35-5:35-7:35-9:35. Digital Presentation

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Chestnut Hill 5
888-AMC-4FUN
Route 9 Newton
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) Fri 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:30-1:00-4:00-7:00-9:30. Digital Presentation; Sun 1:00-4:00-7:00. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) Fri 2:00, 4:30, 7:15. Digital Presentation; Sat 11:15-2:00-4:30-7:15. Digital Presentation; Sun 2:00-4:30-7:15. Digital Presentation
THE MUPPETS (PG) Fri 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15. Digital Presentation; Sat 11:00-2:15-4:50-7:30-10:15. Digital Presentation; Sun 2:15-4:50-7:30. Digital Presentation
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) Fri 1:20, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:30-1:20-4:15-7:00-9:50. Digital Presentation; Sun 1:20-4:15-7:00. Digital Presentation
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 9:45, 10:45. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:45-1:45-4:45-7:45-9:45-10:45. Digital Presentation; Sun 1:45-4:45-7:45. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) Fri 1:35, 3:35, 5:35, 7:35, 9:35. Digital Presentation; Sat 11:30-1:35-3:35-5:35-7:35-9:35-11:40. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:30-1:35-3:35-5:35-7:35-9:35. Digital Presentation

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Loews Liberty Tree Mall 20
888-AMC-4FUN
Exit 24 (Endicott St.) off Rt. 128
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) Fri and Sat 9:30, 10:15, 11:00, 11:45, 12:30, 1:15, 2:00, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15, 5:00, 5:45, 6:30, 7:15, 8:00, 8:45, 9:30, 10:15, 11:00, 12:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 9:30-10:15-11:00-11:45-12:30-1:15-2:00-2:45-3:30-4:15-5:00-5:45-6:30-7:15-8:00-8:45-9:30-10:15. Digital Presentation
LIKE CRAZY (PG-13) Fri and Sat 9:35, 11:50.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:35.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:00, 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:45. IMAX; Sun 10:00-1:10-4:15-7:30-10:45. IMAX
MONEYBALL (PG-13) 10:40, 1:45, 7:40. Digital Presentation
THE MUPPETS (PG) Fri and Sat 10:45, 1:25, 4:00, 6:45, 9:25, 12:10. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation; Fri and Sat 9:35-10:45-12:10-1:25-2:45-4:00-5:20-6:45-9:25-12:10. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) Fri and Sat 12:05, 2:20, 4:40, 6:55, 7:55, 9:05, 10:05, 11:15, 12:15. Digital Presentation; Sun 9:55-12:05-2:20-4:40-6:55-7:55-9:05-10:05. Digital Presentation
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) 4:55, 10:40. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 10:20, 1:30, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55. Digital Presentation

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Framingham 16
888-AMC-4FUN
22 Flutie Pass
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) Fri and Sat 10:00, 10:45, 12:20, 1:15, 2:45, 3:45, 5:15, 6:45, 7:45, 9:15, 10:10. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-10:45-12:20-1:15-2:45-3:45-5:20-6:45-7:45-9:15-10:05. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) Fri and Sat 10:40, 1:20, 7:40, 10:20. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:40-1:20-7:25-9:55. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 4:10. RealD 3D
THE DESCENDANTS (R) Fri and Sat 11:00, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:50.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:00-1:50-4:50-7:40-10:25.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) 11:20, 2:00. Digital Presentation
HUGO (PG) 4:20. Digital Presentation
HUGO 3D (PG) 10:00, 1:00, 6:50, 10:00. RealD 3D
J. EDGAR (R) 10:50. Digital Presentation
JACK AND JILL (PG) 4:45. Digital Presentation
THE MUPPETS (PG) Fri and Sat 11:30, 2:20, 5:00, 8:00, 10:40. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:30-2:20-5:00-7:35-10:10. Digital Presentation
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) Fri and Sat 10:15, 12:45, 3:30, 6:30.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:15-12:45-3:30-6:30-9:10.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:30, 1:30, 2:15, 4:30, 5:15, 7:30, 8:15, 10:15, 11:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:30-1:30-2:15-4:30-5:15-7:30-8:15-10:15. Digital Presentation
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:45, 12:40, 3:00, 4:00, 6:15, 7:15, 9:30, 10:30. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:45-12:40-3:00-4:00-6:15-7:15-9:30-10:20. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) 11:50, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:50. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:05, 12:50, 3:50, 7:20, 10:25. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:05-12:50-3:50-7:20-10:15. Digital Presentation
YOUNG ADULT (R) 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40. Digital Presentation

SHOWCASE

Showcase Cinema de Lux Patriot Place
800-315-4000
24 Patriot Place, Foxboro
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 12:20, 2:40, 5:20, 7:40, 9:55. DIGITAL PROJECTION;Lux Level; Fri and Sat 11:40-12:20-1:50-2:40-4:10-5:20-7:05-7:40-9:15-9:55-11:30-12:10. DIGITAL PROJECTION; Sun 11:40-12:20-1:50-2:40-4:10-5:20-7:05-7:40-9:15-9:55. DIGITAL PROJECTION
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 11:45, 2:05, 4:25, 6:45. REAL D 3D
THE DESCENDANTS (R) Fri and Sat 12:15, 3:20, 6:20, 9:20, 12:00. RWC/DVS IN DIGITAL PROJECTION; Sun 12:15-3:20-6:20-9:20. RWC/DVS IN DIGITAL PROJECTION
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) 11:30, 1:55, 4:15. DIGITAL PROJECTION
HOLIDAY CLASSICS (NR) Sat 10:00
HUGO 3D (PG) 12:35, 4:05, 7:15, 10:15. REAL D 3D
JACK AND JILL (PG) Fri and Sat 6:55, 9:35, 12:15. DIGITAL PROJECTION; Sun 6:55-9:35. DIGITAL PROJECTION
THE MUPPETS (PG) Fri and Sat 12:05, 3:15, 6:25, 9:25, 11:55. DIGITAL PROJECTION; Sun 12:05-3:15-6:25-9:25. DIGITAL PROJECTION
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 12:45, 3:50, 6:40, 9:20. DIGITAL PROJECTION;Lux Level; Fri and Sat 12:45-1:40-3:50-4:40-6:40-7:45-9:20-10:25-12:20. DIGITAL PROJECTION; Sun 12:45-1:40-3:50-4:40-6:40-7:45-9:20-10:25. DIGITAL PROJECTION
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:55, 3:10, 6:10, 9:00, 11:50. RWC IN DIGITAL PROJECTION; 1:15-4:20-7:10-10:20. DIGITAL PROJECTION;Lux Level; Fri and Sat 5:05-6:15-7:00-8:05-9:10-10:00-10:55-12:05. Digital Presentation; Sun 9:40-10:25-11:10-12:25-1:10-2:05-3:20-4:05-5:05-6:15-7:00-8:05-9:10-10:00. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) Fri and Sat 9:55, 12:05, 2:20, 4:40, 6:55, 7:55, 9:05, 10:05, 11:15, 12:15. Digital Presentation; Sun 9:55-12:05-2:20-4:40-6:55-7:55-9:05-10:05. Digital Presentation
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) 4:55, 10:40. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 10:20, 1:30, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55. Digital Presentation

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

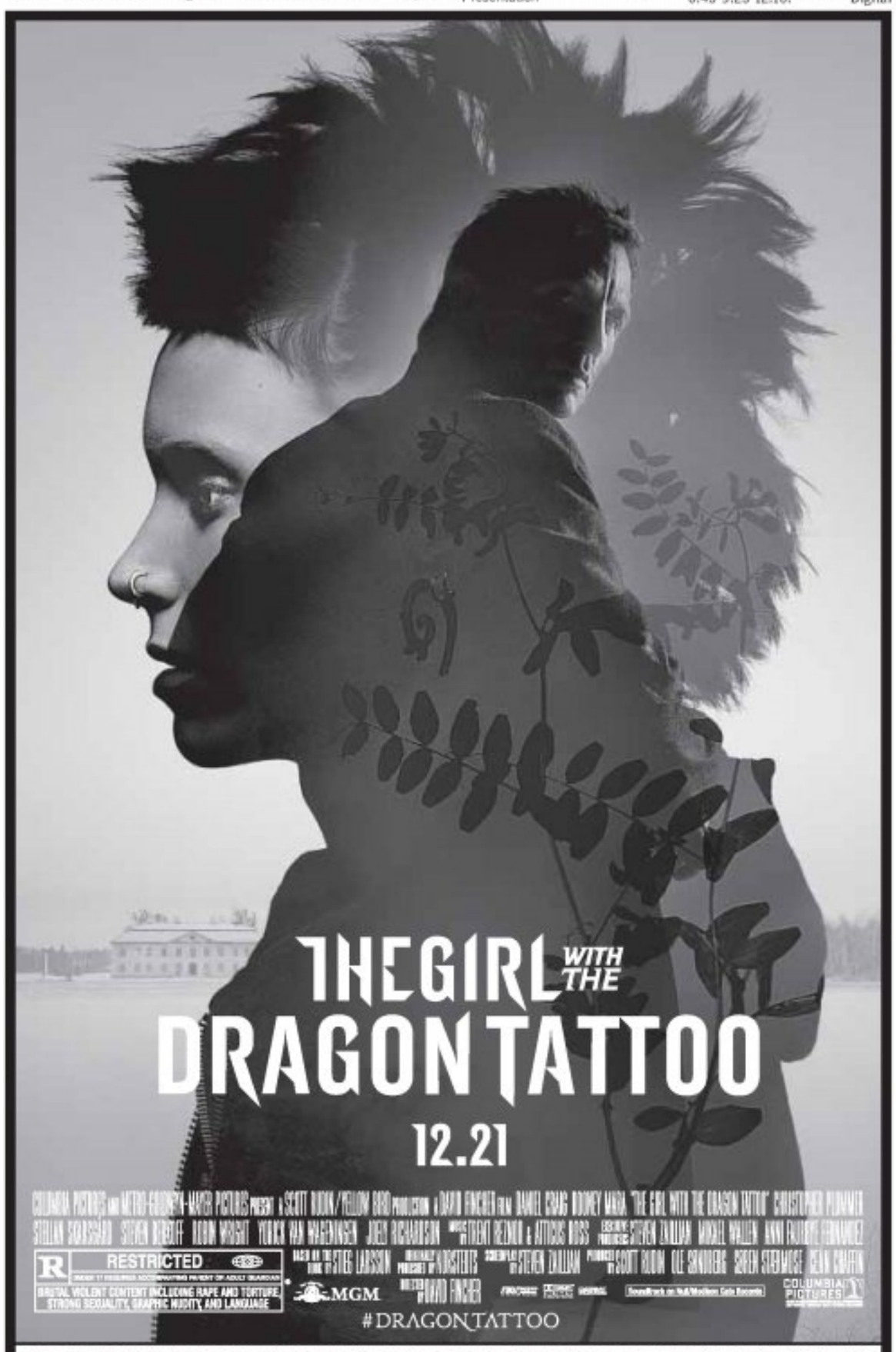
Loews Methuen 20
888-AMC-4FUN
Rte. 213 between I-93 & I-495
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 10:30, 11:15, 1:00, 1:45, 3:30, 4:15, 6:00, 6:45, 8:30, 9:15, 10:45. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 1:45, 7:15, 10:00. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 11:05, 4:45. RealD 3D
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 11:15, 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:30.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) 11:00, 4:30. Digital Presentation
HAPPY FEET TWO IN 3D (PG) 2:15. RealD 3D
HUGO (PG) Fri 10:15. Digital Presentation
HUGO 3D (PG) 11:50, 3:00, 6:15, 9:15. RealD 3D
IMMORTALS 3D (R) 7:30, 10:15. RealD 3D
J. EDGAR (R) 11:45, 3:00, 6:30, 9:40. Digital Presentation
JACK AND JILL (PG) 11:15, 1:40, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30. Digital Presentation
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 10:00, 1:15, 4:30, 7:45, 11:00. IMAX
THE MUPPETS (PG) 10:45, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45, 10:45. Digital Presentation
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 11:00, 12:45, 1:45, 3:40, 4:40, 6:40, 7:40, 9:40, 10:40. Digital Presentation
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 10:45, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00, 11:00. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) Fri 11:45, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:15, 10:15. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 11:45-12:45-2:00-3:00-4:15-5:15-7:00-8:00-9:15-10:15. Digital Presentation
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 11:45, 2:45, 6:45, 9:45. Digital Presentation
YOUNG ADULT (R) 11:00, 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:00. Digital Presentation

SOMERVILLE THEATRE

Somerville Theatre
617-625-5700
55 Davis Square
HUGO (PG) Fri 4:00, 7:15, 9:50; Sat and Sun 1:00-4:00-7:15-9:50.
THE MUPPETS (PG) Fri 4:30, 7:10, 9:30; Sat and Sun 1:10-4:30-7:10-9:30.
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri 4:15, 7:00, 9:45; Sat and Sun 1:20-4:15-7:00-9:45.
THE SITTER (R) Fri 5:20, 7:20, 9:40; Sat and Sun 3:15-5:20-7:20-9:40.

CAPITOL THEATRE

Capitol Theatre
781-648-4340
204 Massachusetts Avenue
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) Fri 3:45, 6:00, 8:00; Sat and Sun 1:30-3:45-6:00-8:00.
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) Fri 7:30; Sat and Sun 3:00-7:30.
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) Fri 5:20, 9:40; Sat 5:20-9:40.; Sun 5:20.
J. EDGAR (R) Fri 4:45, 7:45; Sat and Sun 1:45-4:45-7:45.
MELANCHOLIA (R) Fri 4:30, 7:15, 9:50; Sat 1:15-4:30-7:15-9:50.; Sun 1:15-4:30-7:15.
MONEYBALL (PG-13) Fri and Sat 7:20, 10:00; Sun 7:20.
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 7:00, 9:30
PUSS IN BOOTS (PG) Fri 5:15; Sat and Sun 1:10-3:15-5:15.



COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX

▶ Jason Lee, as the frequently perturbed Dave Seville, readies himself for a fancy night on a cruise ship with his best chipmunk friend, Alvin.

Jason Lee, back with Alvinnnn!

The star reunites with his furry friends in 'Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked' What the actor found strange about performing with a hackey sack

Jason Lee was more than happy to reprise his role as Dave Seville, the human minder and manager to a furry pop trio in "Alvin and Chipmunks: Chipwrecked." But the third film in the franchise provided some new challenges for the actor — namely filming on a Carnival cruise ship. "I mean, we were only there for a week, but my idea of a getaway is not being on a cruise ship with thousands of people, personally," Lee says. "You eat all day and all night, and you're out at sea. It's quite surreal, the cruise thing."

While Lee admits the process has gotten easier with the first two Chipmunks films under his belt, there's a challenge to working with virtual characters that never really goes away. "It's always a bit surreal when you're looking at pieces of tape and stuffed animals and tan beanbags," he says, adding that more dramatic scenes — like an emotional reunion with his furry kids — can be especially jarring. '"Theodore, I missed you!' And it's a beanbag in your hand. It's kind of strange."

But despite the challenges of making a movie with animated chipmunks, Lee is thrilled to have some entries on his resume for his children to enjoy. "I always set out to just work as an actor and try to do as many different things as I possibly could — and not be too selective or not be too careful," he says. "I like that I've done kids' stuff, I like that I've done more dramatic stuff, I like that I did all the Kevin Smith stuff. I like that I've bounced around a lot. But certainly as a dad, it's nice to have movies that my kids can watch, because they certainly aren't watching 'Chasing Amy.'"

NED EHRBAR
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

Back to TV

While former professional skateboarder Jason Lee got his start as an actor in films — mostly for Kevin Smith — it was his TV work that made him a star, especially on the four-year run of "My Name Is Earl." But while his most recent small-screen gig, the cable show "Memphis Beat," didn't last, he's eager to get back on TV. "I'm actually developing some things now," he says. "I've been meeting with writers and trying to get some things on the air — as a producer and as an actor."

Review

'Chipwrecked' is kryptonite for adults

'Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked'
Director: Mike Mitchell
Cast: Justin Long, David Cross, Amy Poehler
Rating: G **Grade:** ●●○○○
Maybe the first sign of getting old is no longer finding the voices of Alvin and his chipmunk friends entertaining. The plot for their third theatrical outing gets underway after the rodents get separated from a cruise ship and end up on that a deserted island, where zany adventures are had and lessons about responsibility are learned. Kids movies generally succeed by having something in them for the parents, but the only jokes to sail over kids' heads here seem to make reference to Internet memes like the honey badger and Double Rainbow. And while kids seem to enjoy the high-pitched voices, for grownups it's likely to be little more than headache-inducing.

NED EHRBAR

Oswalt: 'Good times can keep happening, just not the same ones'

Comedian, author and actor Patton Oswalt warns of the dangers of embracing nostalgia too much Why the 'Young Adult' star hired an acting coach for the role

Patton Oswalt stars in "Young Adult," in theaters now.

"How f—ing amazing was she in this movie?" Patton Oswalt asks breathlessly when one of Charlize Theron's particularly harrowing scenes in "Young Adult" is mentioned. Theron is, indeed, amazing. But this film — written by Diablo Cody, directed by Jason Reitman — is overloaded with talent. Playing the impromptu sidekick to a woman on a mission to seduce her former high school boyfriend, Oswalt went to great lengths to get his character right. The actor, comedian and author spoke to Metro in an exclusive interview about Generation X and the dangers of nostalgia.

FOR THE COMPLETE INTERVIEW, VISIT WWW.METRO.US/MOVIES

You used an acting coach for the first time with this role. Why did you think this character merited that kind of preparation?

Because the script was so good, but there was so much nuance and so much of a delicate tightrope back and forth between despair and humor. The humor never came out of "let's stick a joke here." [It] came out of real human behavior. I had this mix of exhilaration for being offered the script and then terror. I didn't want to do wrong by it, because it was so well-written.

Both you and Cody fit so many pop culture references into your work. How do your viewpoints relate?

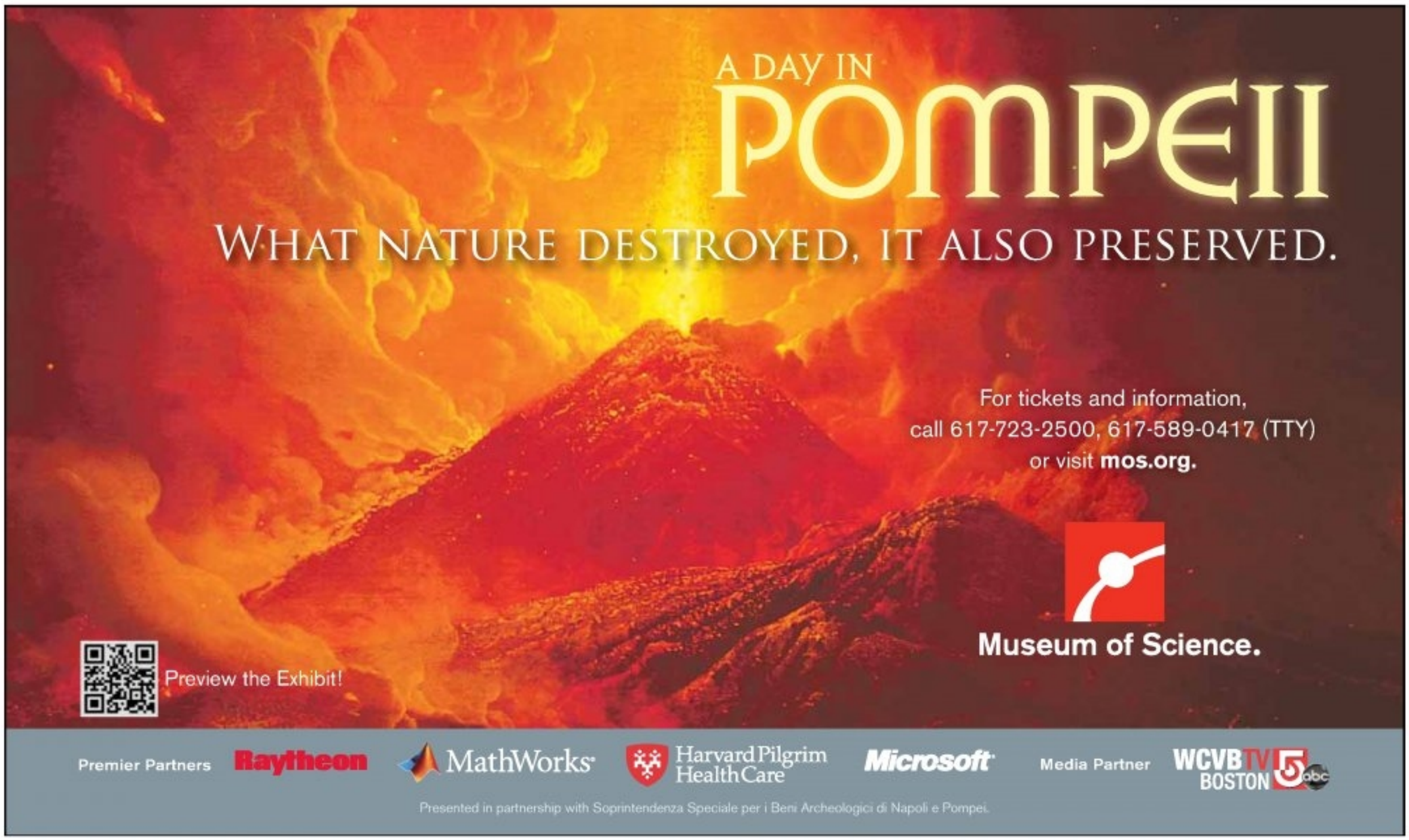
"Juno" was, whether you like it or not, a pretty accurate depiction of how young people talk to each other. … ["Young Adult"] is more about Gen X getting older and what do they have to jettison and what do they still hold onto? I think they remember being so self-conscious about people that were baby boomers and how stupid they sounded using their old slang. Now they're almost overthinking, "Do I say the stuff I used to say?" Like it or not, it is a very accurate portrait of "this is how Gen X gets older." If you thought the baby boomers grew old in a really clumsy way, wait till you see how we do it.

Q&A

Much of the film has to do with trying to bring the past into the present. Do you relate to that tendency?

It's very dangerous. I'm just as guilty of it as anyone else. I think Frank Zappa said, "Some day, we're all going to die of nostalgia." … It's almost like if you want the same good times to keep happening, that's what's dangerous. Good times can keep happening, just not the same ones. If you expect to be the same person having the same good time, then that's also really dangerous.

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

▶ Jared Harris is the dapper and dastardly Professor Moriarty.

Sherlock's arch enemy

◗ Rumor was that Brad Pitt would play opposite Robert Downey Jr. as Moriarty, the ultimate bad guy ◗ But no: Please meet Jared Harris

You can't have a Sherlock Holmes without a Moriarty, and while the character was hinted at — shown as just a hand emerging from darkness — in 2009's "Sherlock Holmes," the master villain comes center stage in the new "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," embodied with quiet cunning by British actor and "Mad Men" star Jared Harris. While Harris admits he was a big fan of the first movie, he hadn't considered that shadowy hand would eventually belong to him.

WWW.METRO.US/MOVIES
GO ONLINE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE MOVIE

How was it to take on this monumental literary figure, one of the biggest villains of all time?
It was a great opportunity, so the ambitious part of you recognizes that. The other side of you goes, "Yes! But how the f— are you going to do it?" That's the bit that's scary.

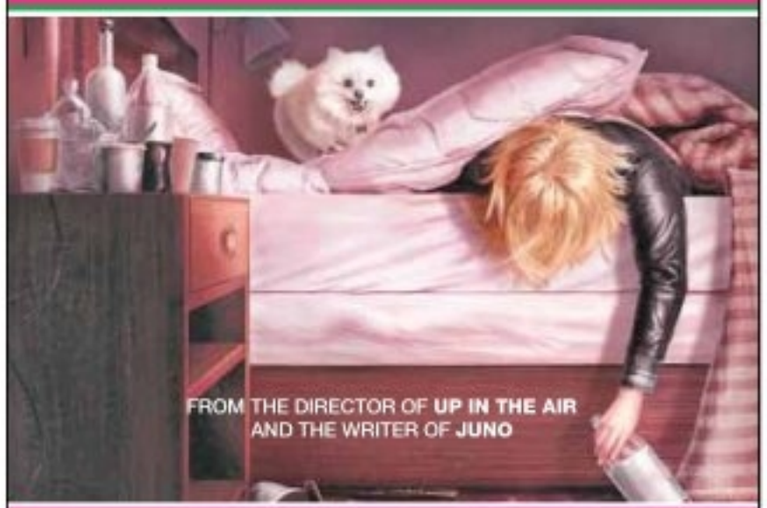
Did you look to any previous incarnations of Moriarty while preparing?
I looked at the books — I'd read them before, but not with that focus — and I didn't find that particularly helpful in terms of the Moriarty who appears in those two stories. Given that they sort of threw a hand grenade into the traditional Sherlock Holmes ... the Moriarty had to be in keeping with that. But at the same time you're aware that after what Mike Myers did with super-villains playing Doctor Evil, in a post-Austin Powers era, that there's that pitfall on one side, and then there's the pitfall on the other side of there's no point in just repeating what other people have done in playing the part, because that's boring.

After the first film, there was a lot of speculation as to who would play the part. Did you picture yourself in the role?
Never, never. No. I mean, I'd heard there was all these names that were printed in the press. I have no idea if they were true or not. I know they were looking for a star, but I don't know who they were or who they tried. But I did not think for a second watching that movie that I would be in the next one. It never occurred to me that it would be a possibility. I mean, I remember when the first one was casting in London, I gave my agent an earful for not getting me up for the first one.

You've done some fight choreography with Robert Downey Jr. in this. Are you going to apply any of that to "Mad Men" next season?
Ah. [Laughs] That's not up for me to decide, that's up to Matt Weiner. I can't tell you anything about the stories for the new season. I can talk with you all night long about episodes from seasons one through four as much as you like, but I can't tell you about season five.

NED EHRBAR
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles Times
Betsy Sharkey
"CHARLIZE THERON PLAYS MEAN TO PERFECTION. IN 'YOUNG ADULT' THERE IS SOMETHING ABSOLUTELY MESMERIZING ABOUT WATCHING A TRAIN WRECK UNFOLD ON SCREEN."



Rolling Stone
Peter Travers
"CHARLIZE THERON IS A COMIC FORCE OF NATURE. BUT FAIR WARNING: THE LAUGHS IN 'YOUNG ADULT' LEAVE BRUISES."
RICHARD ROEPER
"ONE OF THE VERY BEST MOVIES OF 2011. I GIVE 'YOUNG ADULT' AN A."
The New York Times
A.O. Scott
"BRILLIANT, BRAVE AND BREATHTAKINGLY CYNICAL."
San Francisco Chronicle
Mick LaSalle
"★★★★★"
YOUNG ADULT
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▶ Vineyards in Vacqueyras, Rhone Valley, France

- A Cru is a vineyard or growth of distinction
- Here are three reasons why this is one class to seek out next time you're shopping for a nice bottle of wine

Not everyone is a wine snob. That's why we decided to talk to the purveyors of Rhone Valley wines about what it means when a bottle of Rhone Valley bears the Crus name.

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The Cru name is earned once a wine region within the Rhone Valley moves up the hierarchy and continues to improve the quality and distinctiveness of that specific region. Each Cru follows a set of regulations, such as the precise producing area, the kind of grapes that can be used, the alcohol content and more.

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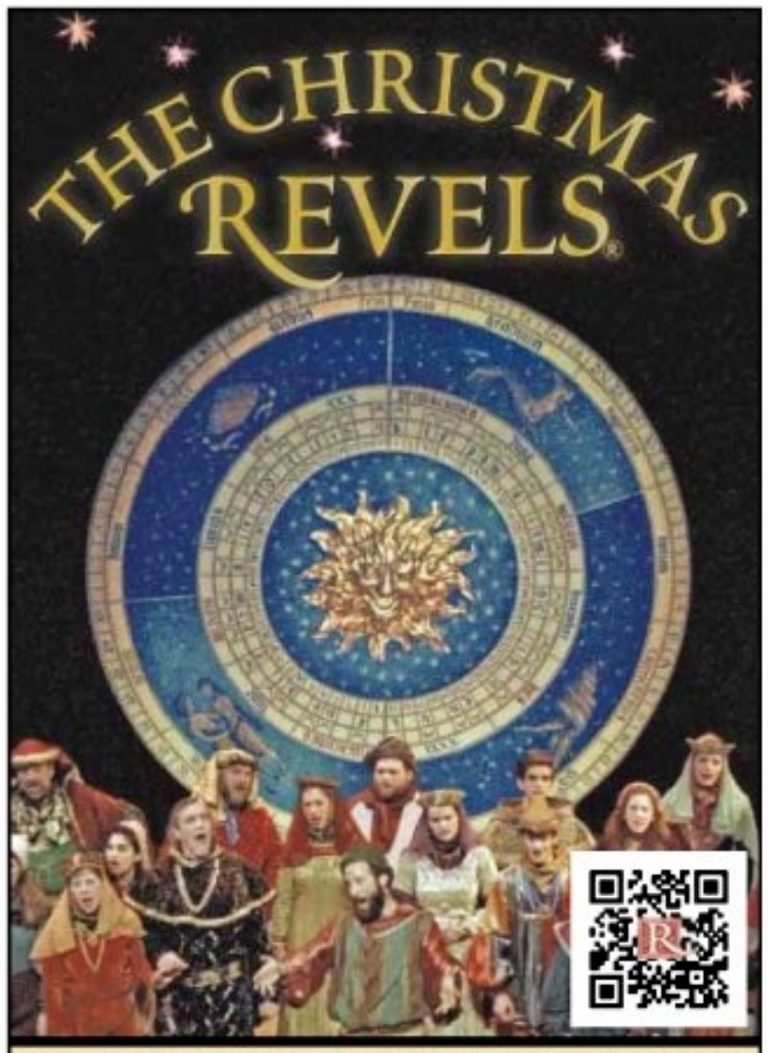

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The feed ...

On Fridays, Dorothy will post the best tweets she received during the week. You can always let her know what you think — good or bad — at @dorothyatmetro.

This week, readers write in to let me know their thoughts on Ryan Seacrest possibly taking over for Matt Lauer on "Today" (consensus: eh!), @tiffanytownsend thanks me for not devoting a day to Lohan fever (they are few and far between, sadly) and @Xanderall! loved last Friday's Twitter mention so much that he's getting more today.

▶ **@CalChemical** Seacrest c/d do Today. For breaking news they c/d cut to a news desk. Today & GMA are barely news reporters anymore.

▶ **@boredgirl260** If Ryan Seacrest is our generations Dick Clark, I officially loathe our generation #seacrestsucks

▶ **@TheSagest** Ryan Seacrest << Dick Clark. In no way is Ryan a journalist, not even on New Years Rockin Eve.

▶ **@Johnheartstype** Reading @dorothyatmetro's column. Anyone else cynically suspicious of how grounded Abigail Breslin is?

▶ **@tiffanytownsend** Thank you for not giving Lindsay Lohan airtime in today's print edition. Thank you.

▶ **@Xanderall!** Imagine my surprise when I came across my tweet on today's Metro! I'm officially a newspaper contributor. Mom will be proud.

@DOROTHYATMETRO FOR UP-TO-DATE GOSSIP

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Eastwood does reality TV? Unforgiven!

www.metro.us
WWW.METRO.US/WORD
DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

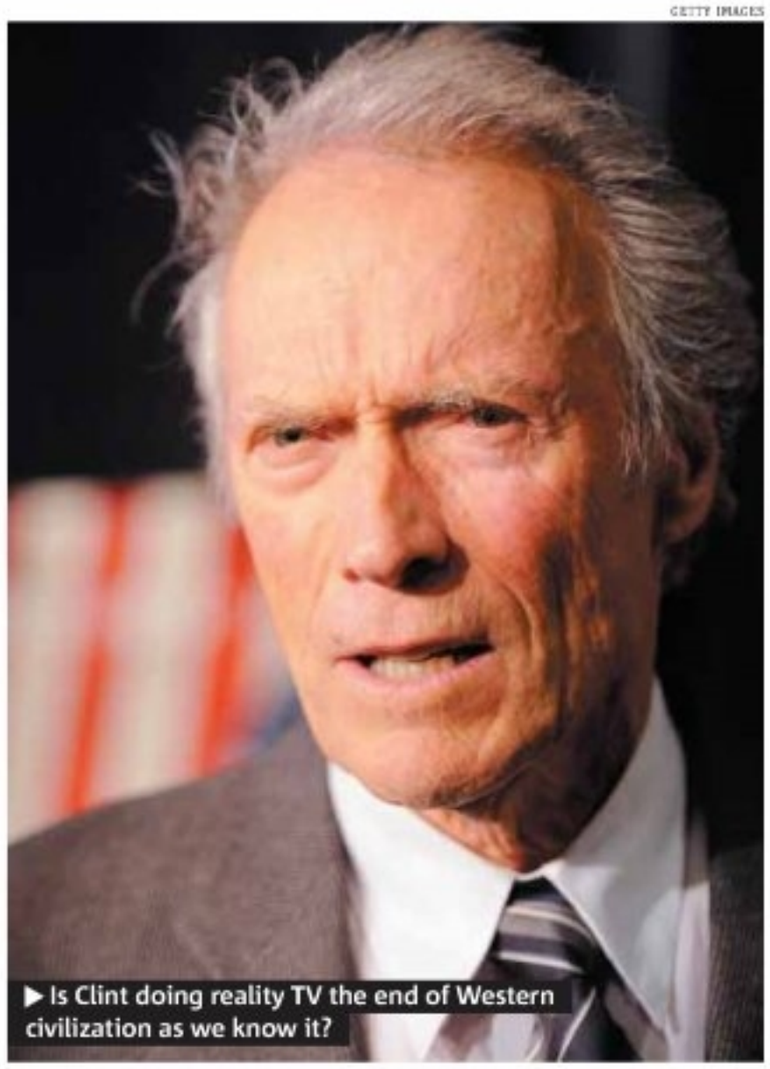
The news that **Clint Eastwood** and his family are making a reality TV show is making me feel all "Dirty Harry" on the inside.

Yes, TMZ.com is reporting that Eastwood's wife and two daughters are shooting a new reality show that will explore what it's like to be "Hollywood royalty" for the E! Network. (Editor's note: All reality TV shows are about this. Change it up, people.)

Per TMZ, it will focus on the relationship between Clint's wife **Dina Eastwood**, their daughter **Morgan** and Clint's 18-year-old daughter **Francesca**. It is being produced by the same company that is also responsible for the **Kardashian** shows.

Honestly, folks, let's just give up. Because if Clint, 81, succumbs to the siren call of reality TV, there is no hope for the rest of it. It's because he and his family are "Hollywood royalty" that they don't have to sink to this, even if the focus is going to be on Francesca, an aspiring actress. (Second note: If your dad is Clint Eastwood and you need to have a reality TV show to gain traction, you must be a terrible actress.) Come on, Clint. You starred in "Gran Torino" — please don't go down without a fight.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Is Clint doing reality TV the end of Western civilization as we know it?

Talking points

Cyrus: These are real!

After turning heads in a low-cut dress at CNN's recent Heroes gala, **Miley Cyrus** is fighting back against speculation that she's had breast augmentation surgery. "Thank you for the compliment but these babies are all mine," she posted to Twitter in response to the claims. "I wish they'd realize you don't have to be fake to be beautiful."

JLo sells off family jewels

Jennifer Lopez is reportedly finding closure after her divorce from **Marc Anthony** and turning a tidy profit at the same time by unloading jewels he'd bought her during their marriage. "JLo also reportedly is quietly selling all the jewelry Anthony gave her — and he gave her quite a lot," a source tells the Chicago Sun-Times. "When Jennifer moves on, she totally moves on." The source also has a cryptic warning for Lopez's current flame, **Casper Smart**, noting that the dancer "will likely discover he will 'disappear' when she tires of him, too."

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ Cyrus and her "babies"

Show some brotherly love, Justin

This will make for some awkward family time at the holidays: **Justin Biel** — brother of **Jessica** — has taken to Facebook to trash **Justin Timberlake**'s tequila brand, 901 Tequila, and the lack of promotion provided by its famous founder. "I've been waiting for [Timberlake] to do something with this f—ing brand — make a song about it, put it in a godd— video, hold it up, take some pictures, I don't care. Just do something because we're dying on the motherf—ing vine here," Justin Biel says in the video. He reportedly parted ways with 901 Tequila a few weeks ago. The company is trying to make the best of it, insisting the rant was for a viral video promotional campaign that was released too early.

Clooney's tips for animal domination

George Clooney admits he wasn't afraid to play dirty to win the affections of his dog, Einstein, rescued from a shelter. Clooney had been warned that he wouldn't be allowed to adopt the dog if it didn't like him, he explains in an interview with Esquire. "I open the gate for them, and I start to panic that Einstein is not going to like me," Clooney says. "So I run into the kitchen, where I have these turkey meatballs, and I rub them all over my shoes. This woman opens the door, and who knew Einstein was such a food whore on top of everything? He throws himself at my feet."

You gotta wonder, is this also the secret to his infinite sex appeal toward women? Not gonna lie: It would work for me.

Clooney, meatball man

Dapper dudes of 2011

Last Friday, Metro featured the top dresses of 2011. This week, we look at the gentlemen who suited up to become the most dapper gents of the year.

1. What's a roundup of hot guys without Ryan Gosling? Here the actor channels 1950s charm on the set of "Gangster Squad" in L.A. in November.

2. David Beckham is one hot papi. The father of four attended the 2011 VH1 Do Something Awards with his eldest, Brooklyn, in Hollywood in August.

3. Who could actually pull off a suit paired with only a V-neck basic tee? Only Taylor Lautner. Here he is at the premiere of "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn— Part 1" in Barcelona, Spain, last month.

4. An art lover and a super hottie? A bow-tied Ryan Kwanten attended the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's Art And Film Gala in L.A. last month.

5. It would be blasphemous if we didn't include Bradley Cooper. Here, People's Sexiest Man Alive attended The Moet British Independent Film Awards at in London in early December.

6. While we're not thrilled about his glasses, Chris Evans' suit held its own at the premiere of "Captain America: The First Avenger" in Hollywood in July.

7. Also spotted at the LACMA event was Zac Efron. The actor will next be seen in "The Lucky One," in which he plays an ex-Marine sergeant. Efron goes military? We welcome 2012 with open arms.

1: LORY AYALA/BUZZFOTO/FILMMAGIC
2: KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE
3: MIQUEL BENITEZ/GETTY IMAGES
4: JORDAN STRAUSS/WIREIMAGE
5: FERDAUS SHAMIM/WIREIMAGE
6: LESTER COHEN/WIREIMAGE
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‘Urban Nutcracker’ keeps ‘Nutcracker’ on its toes

With poppers, doo-woppers, tappers and Bollywood dancers, this Tony Williams production should become part of your annual family tradition

“Urban Nutcracker” continues to break down racial barriers with its modern, diverse version of the Christmas classic that will put a smile on kids’ faces and have them dancing in their seats to Duke Ellington’s jazz version of Tchaikovsky’s classic score.

The funky prologue of tappers (including Sean C. Fielder), Bollywood dancers and doo-wop singers sets the tone. But the standout here is young Sadie MacKinnon (dancing the lead role of Clarice). Not only is she technically great, but her expressions stay true throughout the story.

Also impressive is the new snow scene set design by Rebecca Cross and the show’s perfectly partnered Snow King and Queen (Gerald Watson and Li-Ann Lim). The Soldier Doll (popper Destiny McCottrell) and the elegant grace of the Sugar Plum Fairy (Kseniya Melyukhina) also bring the holiday magic.

▶ Clarice (Sadie MacKinnon) dances with the Marzipan soloist (Kate Penner).

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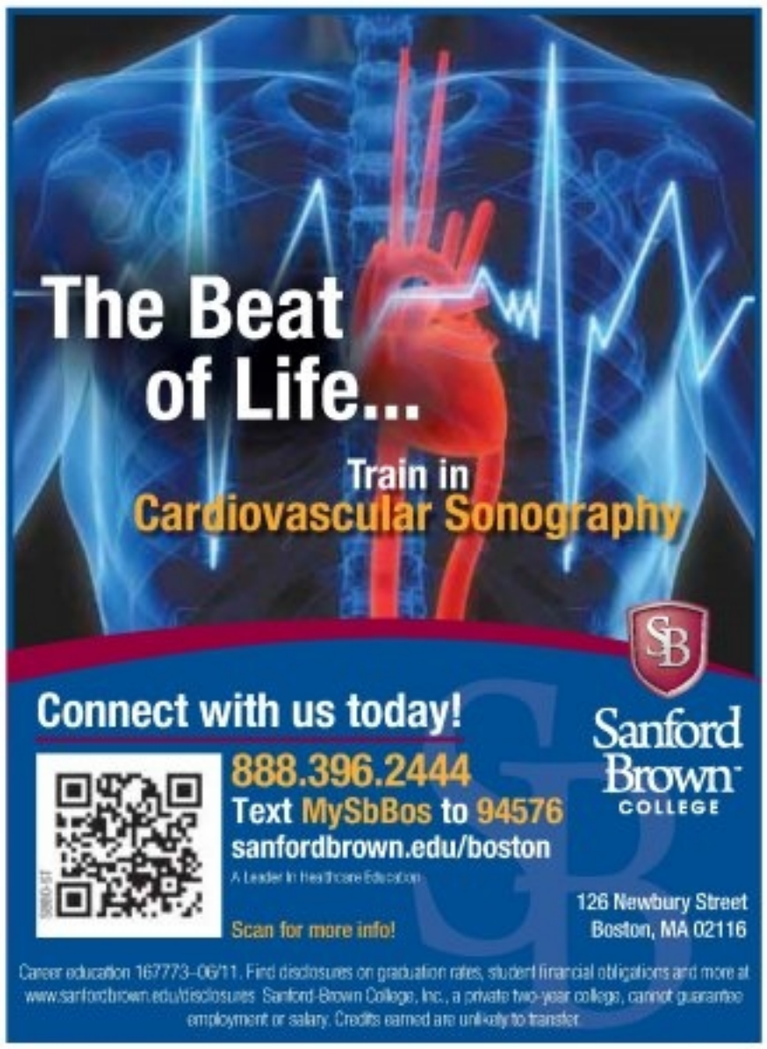

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Surprises, snubs in Globes nods

The Golden Globe nominations were announced Thursday, with 'The Artist' earning the most at six

Awards season officially kicks off with the nominations for the 2012 Golden Globes. And as usual, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association didn't disappoint by both focusing the Oscar race and throwing in a few head-scratchers. Here's the breakdown:

Biggest winners

Woody Allen should be smiling. Long a favorite of the HFPA, the director's latest film, **"Midnight in Paris,"** gets an impressive awards-season boost thanks to its four Globe nods, including both screenplay and directing for Allen. As far as sheer numbers, silent film **"The Artist"** — an Oscar front-runner since making a splash at Cannes — had the most nominations at six, but **"The Help"** and **"The Descendants"** are close behind at five. Usual awards heavyweights the Weinstein Company and HBO lead the film and TV packs with 12 and 18 nominations, respectively. British series **"Downton Abbey,"** which airs in the U.S. as part of Masterpiece Theater, received the most TV nominations, with four.

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FOR THE FULL LIST
OF NOMINEES

The Golden Globe Awards will be handed out live on Jan. 15 in Los Angeles.

Biggest snubs

No **Melissa McCarthy** for **"Bridesmaids"**? We're shocked. But the most glaring omission to awards-watchers is **Steven Spielberg.** Even though his two films, **"War Horse"** and **"The Adventures of Tintin,"** are nominated, he was edged out of the directing category.

NED EHRBAR
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

TV watch list

'Christmas in Washington'

SPECIAL. Conan O'Brien hosts the annual Christmas concert in the capitol, but we've all seen the photos: It's performer Justin Bieber melting Sasha and Malia Obama's hearts that steals the show. **Friday, 8 p.m., TNT**

'Method to the Madness of Jerry Lewis'

MOVIE. The incomparable comedian is profiled in this doc that proves the 85-year-old is still making 'em laugh. **Saturday, 8 p.m., Encore**

'Survivor: South Pacific'

REALITY. Can Coach win it all in his redemption season? Now that God is telling him what to do, sure, why not? **Season finale, Sunday, 8 p.m., CBS** AMBER RAY

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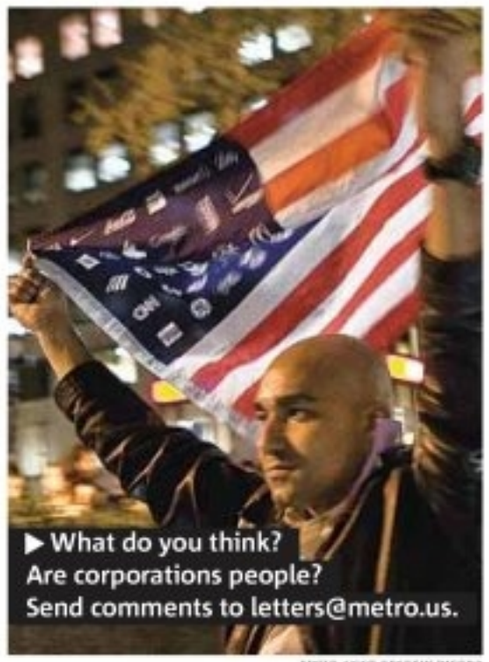
2011: POWER TO THE PEOPLE?

The Week That Was: Opinion

As the year of the protester draws to a close, the fight to define humanity begins in earnest. With more U.S. citizens feeling more estranged than ever from their government representatives, many have risen to condemn the excesses of politicians' principal benefactors: the powerful corporations whose funds fuel campaigns and twist legislative policy to favor their bottom lines at the expense of all else.

In Jan. 2010, the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* gave these legal entities rights previously granted only to living, breathing human beings. The U.S. high court turned campaign finance on its head by equating corporations and people, turning money into free speech.



▶ What do you think? Are corporations people? Send comments to letters@metro.us.

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN/METRO

Of course, corporations are not actually people. For one, they cannot truly die. Take the case of private security firm Blackwater: After nasty allegations of mass murder in Iraq, the firm simply changed its name to Xe. Later, following a government settlement over unlawful international arms deals, the company switched names again, to Academi. Despite a plethora of other criminal allegations, this organization still makes millions through lucrative government contracts.

Can a corporation facilitate murder? (Yes.) Can a corporation be sentenced to prison? (No.) Can a corporation cause pain? (Yes.) Can a corporation feel pain? (No.)

Do corporations have an inordinate amount of power over our political process? (Yes.) Are we going to stand for it? (...)

BRAYDEN SIMMS
brayden.simms@metro.us

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Please send 100-word submissions to letters@metro.us.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Because your financial aspects are looking so encouraging at this time, you should look for new ways to better your lot in life. Don't waste this chance.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** An important upcoming involvement that includes a number of your friends will benefit if you take the reins. Everyone realizes this and won't make any bids for the top slot.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Some kind of financial matter that you've viewed with distaste could make an abrupt turnaround for the better. There's a lesson to be learned from this.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** A role reversal is likely to take place between you and someone who has long served as your instructor. You have some valuable information that they will want to learn from you.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** A pleasant surprise could be in the making for you. From out of nowhere, a debt or a reward that you thought would never be met will be paid in full.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Although you might not be very lucky on your own, someone you're with will be, and this person's good fortune is likely to rub off on you. Choose your companions with this in mind.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Wishful thinking might not be a frivolous pastime if it influences you to transform your fantasies into realities. Make your dreams count.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** It's OK for your mind to operate on a philosophical level, because it could make you more effective and able to see past the mere outward appearance of things.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** You're likely to finally perceive how to circumvent some kind of stumbling block that has been vexing you in your work. Make your move with vim and gusto.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Continue to just be yourself, because it encourages you to do and say all the right things. The residual effects will be an increase in your popularity with your friends and workmates.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** When it comes to matters that pertain to your work, don't hesitate to improvise your way out of dilemmas. The way you handle things will be both constructive and resourceful.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Smoother sailing is finally ahead, because the measures you take are likely to instill harmony in several areas of your life that have proven to be a bit tempestuous lately. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

GO TO... METRO.US/GAMES

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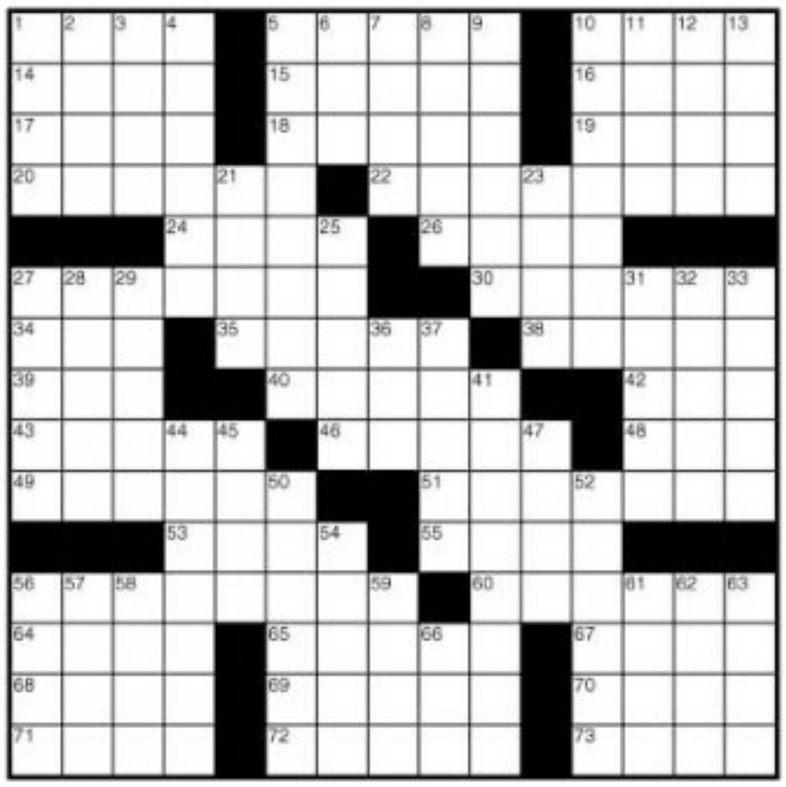
Across
1 Feeling of hunger
5 Opted for
10 Dinner checks
14 Aquarius' tote
15 Poe's visitor
16 Earthenware jar
17 Dry riverbed
18 Work by Homer
19 Subatomic particle
20 Computer network
22 Football play(2 wds.)
24 Spruce
26 Embodiment of grace
27 Ravines
30 Ski trails
34 Turkish potentate
35 Soy or Worcestershire
38 High-priced
39 Nanny's charge
40 Big cats
42 Opposite of post-
43 Vote in
46 Kind of eclipse
48 Feminine principle
49 Soap opera
51 Passed by
53 Any thing
55 Long-handled tool
56 Surfeits
60 Get back
64 Tot of whiskey
65 Asian capital
67 Pita sandwich
68 California wine valley
69 Piano exercise
70 Director __ Kazan
71 Skippers' OKs
72 Wearing vestments
73 Hurry

Down
1 Hard benches
2 Not at home
3 Rorem and Beatty
4 Like sand
5 Felon
6 Fictional supercomputer
7 Ancient Roman poet
8 Blackens
9 Provides funds
10 Bun
11 Et __ (and others)
12 Coalition
13 Holed, as a putt
21 Piccadilly statue
23 Comrades
25 Astronaut's garb (hyph.)
27 Birthday treats
28 Limber
29 Consumer voice
31 Prolific diarist
32 Spine-tingling
33 Go shopping
36 Sweet murmur
37 "__ the Dragon"
41 On the payroll
44 Movies
45 Southwest art colony
47 Trout habitat
50 More luxuriant
52 Fastened down a tent
54 Groovy
56 Best or Ferber
57 Fracture photo (hyph.)
58 Promontory
59 Slight
61 Jean Auel heroine
62 Late spring flower
63 Wordy Webster
66 Poem by Keats



	9	8			3		6	2
		7	1	2			9	3
						4		
		6			5		8	
			6		9			
	5		4			1		
		2						
9	6			7	1	5		
3	1		9			2	4	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

1		6			8	3	5	
		4		3			8	
			5					4
	2	5	3				9	1
4	9				7	2	3	
5					2			
	8			1		5		
	6	2	8			9		7

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to Thursday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS: **WWW.METRO.US/PUZZLES**

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Know the 90 percent rule

Oddsmakers are smarter than the public, or "square" bettors. So if you see a line that seems too good to be true, it probably is.

We can quantify trap games by looking at consensus data. According Sportsinsights.com, there are three NFL games this weekend in which 90 percent of the wagers are coming in on one side. The Packers over the Chiefs, the Saints over the Vikings and the Bengals over the Rams.

However, the oddsmakers haven't adjusted their lines on these contests. That's because pro, or "sharp" bettors are betting the dogs. They know the lines on road favorites are inflated because the public is going to pound teams like the Packers no matter what.

Get on the 10 percent side this week. In the long run, you'll have the edge.

ADAM LEVITAN

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WWW.METRO.US
PICKS, TRICKS AND MORE

AFC Playoff slots on line in Denver

- Pats not only battling Tebow on Sunday but Texans and Ravens as well
- Brady will be dealing with one of the league's finest, hottest defenses

This is a big game, and not just because Tim Tebow is part of it.

Currently, the Patriots are 10-3, the third seed in the AFC behind the Houston Texans and the Baltimore Ravens.

Although the Texans and Ravens share the same record as the Pats, tie-breaker rules have them ranked higher.

Without boring you with tie procedure talk, just know that if all three teams win out from here, the Pats would end up as the second seed in the AFC going into the postseason, behind the Ravens.

That would guarantee them a first-round bye and at least one playoff home game — a huge advantage for a team that has its flaws and injuries, and could certainly benefit from a little break.

A loss to the Broncos would keep the Pats in that third position and force them to win three postseason games before making a trip to Indianapolis for the Super Bowl.

But there are also playoff implications for the Broncos, who sit atop the AFC West.

Tebow has certainly shut up the critics over the last month, but one thing they do have on him is the fact he has yet to beat a really good team. Going toe-to-toe with Tom Brady and leaving with a win would be a big notch on Tebow's belt.

Brady is just 1-5 against the Broncos in his career — the only losing record he possesses against another opponent. Belichick hasn't had much success against Denver either.

Clearly though, this is a different-looking Broncos team than the Pats have ever seen before.

Will the Patriots be the next team "Tebowed" or will the defense get hot and finally put an end to the madness happening in Denver?

GETTY IMAGES
▶ Vince Wilfork, left, and the Pats defense will have to be sharp against Denver.

On the air Sunday
Patriots at Broncos, 4:15 p.m. (CBS)

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

The cold, hard football facts

A look at this weekend's NFL action through the eyes of the football stat experts at Coldhardfootballfacts.com.

Big boys thriving on home turfs

If two teams are evenly matched, the home team will generally be favored by three. Is this theory legit? It certainly is for the NFL's elite. You could argue that the Patriots, Ravens, Steelers, Colts and Packers are the five best teams of the past decade. Well, they're also the five best NFL teams at home since 2000, per CHFF point-spread analyst Mark Wald.

- **New England**
  .787, home win percentage
  .649, away win percentage
- **Baltimore**
  .755, home win percentage
  .447, away win percentage
- **Pittsburgh**
  .718, home win percentage
  .606, away win percentage
- **Indianapolis**
  .702, home win percentage
  .628, away win percentage
- **Green Bay**
  .699, home win percentage
  .547, away win percentage

FFchamps.com's 'Start and Sit'

- Start him
  WAS RB Roy Helu at NY
  Averages 111 rushing yards over the last three games, and should remain a home-stretch hero for fantasy owners against a Giants defense that is getting pushed around for 127 rushing yards per battle.
- Sit him
  PITT RB Rashard Mendenhall, at San Fran
  Performed below expectations with 76 rushing yards versus a pushover Cleveland run defense. And we're not willing to roll the dice on him against San Francisco's No. 1 run defense on their home turf on Monday Night Football.

FANTASY FOOTBALL CHAMPS
FFChamps.com

3

In the AFC

STANDINGS

EAST	
PATRIOTS	10-3
JETS	8-5
BILLS	5-8
DOLPHINS	4-9
NORTH	
RAVENS	10-3
STEELERS	10-3
BENGALS	7-6
BROWNS	4-9
SOUTH	
Z - TEXANS	10-3
TITANS	7-6
JAGUARS	4-9
COLTS	0-13
WEST	
BRONCOS	8-5
RAIDERS	7-6
CHARGERS	6-7
CHIEFS	5-8

In the NFC

STANDINGS

EAST	
GIANTS	7-6
COWBOYS	7-6
EAGLES	5-8
REDSKINS	4-9
NORTH	
Z- PACKERS	13-0
LIONS	8-5
BEARS	7-6
VIKINGS	2-11
SOUTH	
Y - SAINTS	10-3
FALCONS	8-5
PANTHERS	4-9
BUCCANEERS	4-9
WEST	
Z- 49ERS	10-3
SEAHAWKS	6-7
CARDINALS	6-7
RAMS	2-11

Z- CLINCHED DIVISION
Y - CLINCHED PLAYOFF

WEEKEND FOOTBALL BETTING GUIDE — COLLEGE BOWL PICKS!

COWBOYS 7-6 at BUCS 4-9

SATURDAY, 8:20 P.M.

Line: Bucs +7 (O/U 47)
The Scoop: As bad as Tony Romo's record is in December, we're not laying any tuition money on Tampa.
Pick: Cowboys

PACKERS 13-0 at CHIEFS 5-8

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Chiefs +13.5 (O/U 46)
The Scoop: If Aaron Rodgers isn't enough to sell you, how about: Pack is 8-2 ATS in last 10 in December.
Pick: Packers

PANTHERS 4-9 at TEXANS 10-3

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Texans -6.5 (O/U 45)
The Scoop: Team Cam is 4-0 ATS in last four games — plus they rarely get blown out this year.
Pick: Panthers

SEAHAWKS 6-7 at BEARS 7-6

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Bears -3.5 (O/U 36)
The Scoop: Bears D too good, bet the under — but take 'Hawks (7-1 ATS in last eight vs. NFC teams).
Pick: Seahawks

SAINTS 10-3 at VIKINGS 2-11

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Vikings +6.5 (O/U 51.5)
The Scoop: Call it a hunch, Saints are 3-11 vs. teams with losing records.
Pick: Vikings

BENGALS 7-6 at RAMS 2-11

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Rams +6.5 (O/U 40)
The Scoop: We could devote a full page to why the Rams can't win or cover, but you've seen them play.
Pick: Bengals

DOLPHINS 4-9 at BILLS 5-8

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Bills +1.5 (O/U OFF)
The Scoop: Both teams have thrown in the towel. When in doubt, go with the home (snow?) dog.
Pick: Bills

TITANS 7-6 at COLTS 0-13

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Colts +6.5 (O/U 41)
The Scoop: Titans 4-1 ATS in last four roadies, plus Colts are 1-4 ATS in last four as home underdogs.
Pick: Titans

REDSKINS 4-9 at GIANTS 7-6

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

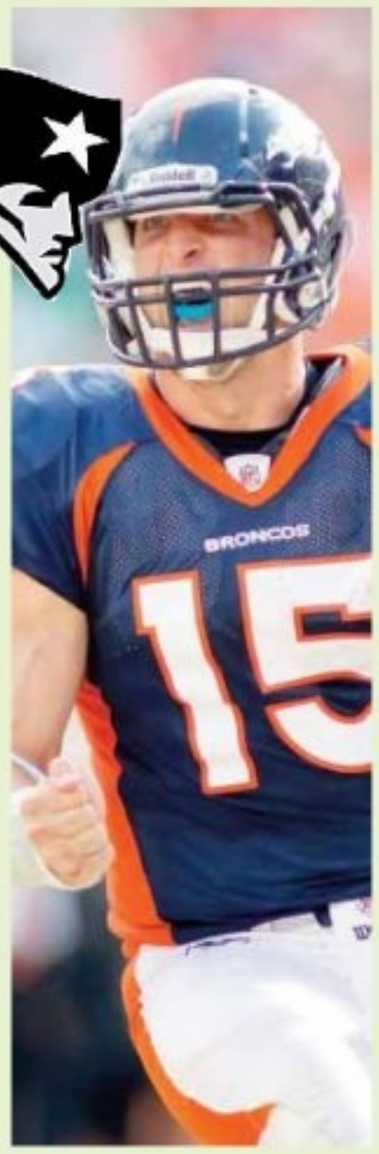
Line: Giants -7 (O/U 46.5)
The Scoop: 'Skins won the first meeting and are 5-1 ATS in last six vs. NFC East. Hope for wind ...
Pick: Redskins

LIONS 8-5 at RAIDERS 7-6

SUNDAY, 4:05 P.M.

Line: Raiders +1 (O/U 47.5)
The Scoop: Black Hole be damned. Lions have Ndamukong Suh.
Pick: Lions

Patriots at Broncos (4:15 p.m. Sunday)



TV: CBS
LINE: Broncos +6.5 (O/U 46)

KEY INJURIES: S Brian Dawkins (neck), CB Andre Goodman (concussion) questionable. WR Eddie Royal (concussion), LB Von Miller (thumb) probable. S Patrick Chung (foot) out. CB Kyle Arrington (foot), WR Deion Branch (groin), LB Brandon Spikes (knee), CB Devin McCourty (shoulder) questionable.

THE SCOOP: This one might get higher ratings than the Super Bowl, as the Chosen One (Tim Tebow) faces the Hooded One (Bill Belichick). It's the ultimate battle between good and evil. Who wins? Well, the Pats, under Belichick are 3-6 all-time versus Denver, including three straight losses at Mile High. What's that tell us?
It's Tebow Time.

PICK: Broncos

BROWNS 4-9 at CARDINALS 6-7

SUNDAY, 4:15 P.M.

Line: Cardinals -6.5 (O/U 37)
The Scoop: Watch the line. It could change dramatically if QB Colt McCoy (concussion) is ruled out for Cleveland. With or without him, we still like the Brownies to cover against mediocre Arizona. Cleveland is 8-2 ATS in last 10 when getting at least 3.5 points on the road. Did we mention Arizona isn't that good?
Pick: Browns

JETS 8-5 at EAGLES 5-8

SUNDAY, 4:15 P.M.

Line: Eagles -3 (O/U 44)
The Scoop: We can't explain this line, at all. It's inexplicable. While we know the Jets have gone 0-8 against the Eagles all-time, we also know that the Jets are 15-3 in their last 18 roadies and the Birds are 1-8 SU in their last nine at home. Plus, Mike Vick isn't 100 percent and playing with a pair of sore ribs.
Pick: Jets

RAVENS 10-3 at CHARGERS 6-7

SUNDAY, 8:30 P.M.

Line: Chargers +3 (O/U 44.5)
The Scoop: San Diego is 4-9 ATS this year and 2-6 ATS in their last eight games. Ravens win comfortably.
Pick: Ravens

STEELERS 10-3 at 49ERS 10-3

MONDAY, 8:20 P.M.

Line: n/a
The Scoop: Off the board until we know if Big Ben plays. It's doubtful. Stay away even if he's cleared.
Pick: Steelers

ND 8-4 at FSU 8-4

DEC. 29, 5:30 P.M.

Line: Florida State -3
The Scoop: The Seminoles are playing in their home state for the Champs Sports Bowl.
Pick: Florida State

RUTGERS 8-4 at IOWA ST. 6-6

DEC. 30, 3:20 P.M.

Line: Rutgers -2
The Scoop: The Pinstripe Bowl is right in the Knights' backyard, so they'll be motivated.
Pick: Rutgers

WAKE 6-6 at MISS ST. 6-6

DEC. 30, 6:40 P.M.

Line: Mississippi State -7
The Scoop: The Music City Mediocrity Bowl! Go SEC.
Pick: Mississippi State

IOWA 7-5 at OKLAHOMA NO. 14, 9-3

DEC. 30, 10 P.M.

Line: Oklahoma -10
The Scoop: Oklahoma didn't expect to be playing in the Insight Bowl. Still they're much better.
Pick: Oklahoma

UTAH 7-5 at GA TECH 8-4

DEC. 31, 2 P.M.

Line: Georgia Tech -3.5
The Scoop: The Sun Bowl is always a sneaky good game. We go with the BCS conference school here.
Pick: Georgia Tech

UCLA 6-7 at ILLINOIS 6-6

DEC. 31, 3:30 P.M.

Line: Illinois -3
The Scoop: Illinois has lost five straight. The Fight Hunger Bowl is in San Fran, let's go with the Cali boys.
Pick: UCLA

CINCINNATI 9-3 at VANDERBILT 6-6

DEC. 31, 3:30 P.M.

Line: Vanderbilt -3
The Scoop: The Liberty Bowl is in Memphis, but total Big East disrespect here.
Pick: Cincinnati

VIRGINIA 8-4 at AUBURN NO. 25, 7-5

DEC. 31, 7:30 P.M.

Line: Auburn -1.5
The Scoop: Michael Dyer was suspended, but we still like the SEC.
Pick: Auburn

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Perk trade looks worse than ever, or does it?

Jeff Green can't pass physical to start camp with Celtics as 2011 season draws closer ◆ Three reasons why Danny Ainge would make the deal again

With word coming yesterday that forward Jeff Green is still on the shelf due to issues related to a stress test and the lingering suspicion that the former Thunder star could be out for quite some time, it's a sure bet that Celtics boss Danny Ainge will once again be feeling the heat today after dealing beloved center Kendrick Perkins for the swingman last February.

But before the "Can Danny" people get too riled up, let's take a look at three reasons why the Green-Perkins swap is still a good deal for Boston.

1 Perk would have walked

The cash-strapped Celts offered him a new contract to sign weeks prior to the controversial trade. He refused.

At the time Perkins was returning from reconstructive knee surgery and had a lot to prove as far as once again returning to his 2010 Finals pre-Game 6 status. But he demanded the cash and there's no doubt that the Celtics couldn't have met his asking price as they walked the line between building for the future and trying to win an 18th championship.

2 Green still has more upside

Green bumbled his way through the Heat series last spring, bricking jumpers and allowing LeBron James to get to the bucket at-will.

But he is young, he is currently cheap and would still bring back more in a trade than Perkins.

Don't forget, in 17 Thunder playoff games last season, Perkins reached double-digit scoring just once (11 on April 27 against Denver).

3 No Banner 18 in '11

The Celtics would not have knocked off the Heat last season regardless of Perkins' presence.

He would not have saved Rajon Rondo from dislocating his elbow in Game 3 against Miami nor would he have guarded the Celtics video screen from being smashed by Rondo's Snapple bottle.

Perkins was a great Celtic, but it wasn't going to work in Boston for the long term.

MATT BURKE
sports@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Forward Jeff Green has not been cleared to practice.

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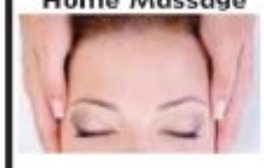

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